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CUBA, THE U.S. AND PUERTO RICO

ANNCR:

NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN TAKES A LOOK AT CUBA'S INTERVENTIONISM IN AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA AND PUERTO RICO.

VOICE:

CUBA'S WILLINGNESS TO INTERVENE IN OTHER COUNTRIES IS SEEN IN WASHINGTON AS A MAJOR BLOCK TO ANY NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH HAVANA. AND THE EVIDENCE OF CUBA'S ATTITUDE IS PLAIN TO SEE. IN AFRICA, TEN PERCENT OF CUBA'S ARMED FORCES REMAIN IN ANGOLA. THEIR PRESENCE THERE -- MANY THOUSANDS OF MILES REMOVED FROM THIS HEMISPHERE -- IS CAUSING DEEP CONCERN THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA. FOR IT IS INTEPRETED AS MEANING THAT HAVANA HAS BY NO MEANS ABANDONED ITS POLICY OF EXPORTING VIOLENT REVOLUTION AND, INDEED, IS NOW DOING IT WITH MOSCOW'S BLESSING. AS TO PUERTO RICO, THE UNITED STATES FOR MANY YEARS HAS BEEN IRRITATED BY HAVANA'S PERSISTENT ATTEMPTS IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF WHAT IT CALLS WASHINGTON'S COLONIALIST POLICY WITH RESPECT TO THE CARIBBEAN ISLAND.

IN PUSHING THOSE EFFORTS, HAVANA HAS CONSISTENTLY DISTORTED THE TRUE RELATIONSHIPS EXISTING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO. FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, PUERTO RICANS HAVE FREELY CHOSEN THEIR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES.

IN VARIOUS ELECTIONS AND PLEBISCITES FOR THEIR ISLAND GOVERNMENT, A MAJORITY OF PUERTO RICANS HAS CONSISTENTLY AND FREELY CHOSEN TO CONTINUE THE PRESENT RELATIONSHIP

AS A COMMONWEALTH OR FREE ASSOCIATED STATE OF THE AMERICAN UNION. PUERTO RICAN ADVOCATES OF FULL STATEHOOD HAVE JUST AS CONSISTENTLY COME IN AS STRONG SECONDS. AND THOSE ADVOCATING INDEPENDENCE FOR THE ISLAND HAVE ALWAYS RECEIVED LESS THAN FIVE PERCENT OF THE VOTES. PUERTO RICANS, AS AMERICANS CITIZENS UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH ARRANGEMENT, HAVE THUS GIVEN EVERY PROOF THAT THEY PREFER A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNIED STATES AS PART OF THEIR POLITICAL LIFE.

THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS, IN 1952 AND IN 1971, HAS CLEARLY RECOGNIZED THIS BASIC FACT. BUT HAVANA HAS PERSISTENTLY AVOIDED THIS REALITY. WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS AND AT OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, HAVANA HAS TRIED TO MAKE THE CHIMERA OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE STAND. LAST SEPTEMBER, CUBA CALLED A CONFERENCE IN HAVANA TO CONSIDER THIS SPECIOUS ISSUE, AND LAUNCHED AN INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN FOR SUPPORT FROM ITS LATIN AMERICA NEIGHBORS. NOT ONE LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE. THIS TOTAL LACK OF LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT -- FROM GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTING A WIDE VARIETY OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS, SOME OF WHICH CALL THEMSELVES "REVOLUTIONARY" -- UNDERLINES THEIR CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRUE RELATIONSHIP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO. IT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THEY VIEWED THE CUBAN EFFORT AS A FORM OF DIRECT INTERVENTION IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- INCLUDING THE PUERTO RICANS. THE LACK OF LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT ALSO INDICATES THEY VIEW HAVANA'S ACTIONS AS A GRATUTOUS SLAP AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS RECOGNITION OF THE VALIDITY OF PUERTO RICO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES.

SO IT IS THESE THREE IRRITANTS THAT, AS PRESIDENT FORD HAS SAID, ARE BLOCKING MOVES TOWARD NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND HAVANA. PRESIDENT FORD SAID THIS WEEK, IN A WHITE HOUSE TELEVISION INTERVIEW, THAT IF HAVANA WANTS TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION IT WILL HAVE TO DO THREE THINGS. FIRST, IN HIS WORDS, "THEY CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE TO STOP TRYING TO UNDERCUT THE SITUATION IN PUERTO RICO." NEXT, SAID PRESIDENT FORD, "THEY WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE TO WITHDRAW THEIR COMMUNIST EXPEDITONARY FORCES IN AFRICA." AND THIRD, HE SAID, HAVANA "WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE TO STOP ANY EXPANSIONIST EFFORTS IN LATIN AMERICA." UNTIL THESE THREE ACTIONS ARE TAKEN BY HAVANA, PRESIDENT FORD SAID, "THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH CASTRO'S CUBA."

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